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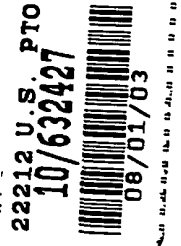
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August 1, 2003

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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LORIE BIGLEY

Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

Signature

August 1, 2003

Date of Signature

Re: New U.S. Utility Patent Application (Divisional) Transmittal
From: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/377,011
Filed: August 18, 1999
For: BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS,
AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET PROCESSING
APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
By: Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA
Attorney Docket: 15162/01041

Dear Sir:

This Divisional Utility Patent Application Transmittal is submitted in connection with BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS, AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, by Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA, inventors:

Enclosed herewith are the following:

APPLICATION ELEMENTS:

- (1) This Transmittal Letter and a duplicate copy thereof (containing pertinent information relating to parent Application Serial No. 09/377,011, and a breakdown of the amount of fees due and deposit account authorization);
- (2) Copy of the Specification of the parent Application Serial No. 09/377,011 (79 pages, including 53 claims and an abstract);

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- (3) Formal Drawings from parent Application Serial No. 09/377,011 (19 sheets) (Figs. 1-22G); and
- (4) Transmittal of Declaration and Power of Attorney and Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(2) (2 pages) with attached copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney from parent Application Serial No. 09/377,011 (5 pages).

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS:

- (5) Preliminary Amendment (8 pages);
- (6) Information Disclosure Statement (3 pages);
- (7) PTO-1449 Form (1 page);
- (8) Copies of ten (10) cited references; and
- (9) One Return Receipt Post Card each for the following grouping of items: (1)-(4), (5), and (6)-(8), above.

The amount of the filing fees after entry of the Preliminary Amendment are calculated below:

| | | | Fee for small entity | | | Fee for other than small entity | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-------|----|---------------------------------|--------|
| Fee | No. filed | No. extra * | Rate | Fee | OR | Rate | Fee |
| Basic fee | | | | \$375 | OR | \$ 750 | \$ 750 |
| Total claims | 13-20= | -0- | X \$9= | \$0 | OR | X \$18= | \$ -0- |
| Independent claims | 4-3= | 1 | X \$42= | \$0 | OR | X \$84= | \$ 84 |
| Multiple Dependent Claim Presented | -0-= | -0- | +\$140= | \$0 | OR | +\$ 280= | -0- |
| | | | Total | \$0 | OR | Total | \$ 834 |

*If the difference in Column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Column 2.

Please charge the required fees of \$834.00 (\$750.00 for the filing fee and \$84.00 for the excess claims fee) to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. If

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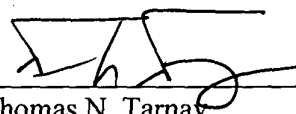
additional fees are due, please charge any fees during the pendency of this application (other than the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

This new application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/377,011, filed August 18, 1999, which claimed priority from Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 10-239053, 10-273839, 10-273840, and 10-275594.

An Assignment from the inventors to MINOLTA CO., LTD., of the parent application U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/377,011, is recorded at **REEL 010364, FRAME 0995**.

All correspondence is to be directed to the address associated with the Customer Number 24367.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Thomas N. Tarnay
Reg. No. 41,341
Attorney for Applicants

TNT:pm
Enclosures